

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE

SUBJ: ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING OCT 15 - CONSIDERATION OF
WESTERN CAUCUS COORDINATION PROCEDURES AND WORKING METHODS

REF: GENEVA 8158

1. PROBLEM OF WESTERN CAUCUS COORDINATION PROCEDURES
AND WORKING METHODS DISCUSSED AT CAUCUS MEETING OCT
15.

2. PROBLEM HAS ARISEN OVER PAST YEAR DUE TO INCREASING
INCONVENIENCE AND DELAYS CAUSED BY NEED FOR NINE MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) TO REACH COMMON
POSITION ON EACH ISSUE BEFORE IT MAY BE DISCUSSED WITHIN
CAUCUS. THIS IS, HOWEVER, MATTER WHICH MUST BE SOLVED BY
EC ITSELF AND HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN FORMAL CAUCUS
SESSIONS.

3. NEW PROBLEM HAS ARISEN SINCE DENMARK ASSUMED CHAIR
FOLLOWING 31ST SESSION IN APRIL 1976. DENMARK HAS VERY
SMALL MISSION IN GENEVA AND HAS CONSEQUENTLY HAD
DIFFICULTY IN ADEQUATELY FULFILLING ADMINISTRATIVE
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RESPONSIBILITIES CONNECTED WITH CHAIRMANSHIP. ALTHOUGH

THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR MAJOR ECE MEETINGS AND HOST OF MINOR MEETINGS SINCE SUMMER RECESS, CAUCUS MEETING OCT 15 WAS FIRST SINCE JULY 2. THIS HIATUS HAD RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE COORDINATION OUTSIDE CAUCUS BY A MORE LIMITED GROUP, OFTEN LED RELUCTANTLY BY US AND CANADA IN VIEW OF SLOW NATURE OF EC DECISION-MAKING, AND WITH RESULTANT FEELING BY SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT THEY WERE BEING LEFT OUT OF WESTERN COORDINATION PROCESS.

4. IN ORDER TO RESTORE CAUCUS COORDINATION ROLE, NORWAY PROPOSED THAT CAUCUS MEET MORE FREQUENTLY AT WORKING LEVEL. THIS PROPOSAL RECEIVED BROAD SUPPORT. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT ANY COUNTRY WHICH WISHED SUCH A MEETING COULD CALL AND ORGANIZE IT. NORWAY THEREUPON AGREED TO CALL MEETING OCT 20 TO PREPARE FOR AD HOC MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION OCT 20 - 22. CATTO

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